

Storing and Retrieving Client Data for a Dialog Element

For a number of dialog elements, the CLIENT-DATA attribute may hold an arbitrary I4 value. This may be useful for linking data to a specific dialog element. A list box item, for example, can receive and pass on the ISN of a database record. The CLIENT-DATA attribute value may be changed at any time.

In Natural code, this might look like this:

Example:

```
DEFINE DATA
LOCAL
  1 #LBITEM-1 HANDLE OF LISTBOXITEM

  1 #ISN (I4)
  ...
END-DEFINE
...
READ...
  #LBITEM-1.CLIENT-DATA:= #ISN
END-READ
...
```

Note: The CLIENT-DATA attribute of a dialog is reserved for its dialog ID.

Client data may also be set and retrieved as alphanumeric string. In this case, you use the CLIENT-KEY and CLIENT-VALUE attributes in combination.

1. You first assign a value to the CLIENT-KEY attribute. This determines the key under which the string is to be stored for a dialog element.
2. You then assign an alphanumeric string to the CLIENT-VALUE attribute of the dialog element.

This enables you to store a number of key/value pairs for one dialog element.

Example:

```
#LB-1.CLIENT-KEY:= 'ANYKEY'
#LB-1.CLIENT-VALUE:= 'ANYSTRING' /* The string to be stored
```

To query a dialog element for a particular string

1. You first assign a CLIENT-KEY value to the dialog element.
2. Then you query the dialog element for the corresponding CLIENT-VALUE.

If you assign a value to the CLIENT-KEY of a dialog element, this value is also valid for subsequent querying and modifying of other dialog elements.

If you query the CLIENT-VALUE of a CLIENT-KEY and there is no such pair among the key/value pairs of the dialog element, an empty string (' ') is returned.

It is advisable to reuse keys that are not needed because you may use only a limited number of keys.

Example:

```
#LB-1.CLIENT-KEY:= 'ANYKEY'  
IF #LB-1.CLIENT-VALUE EQ 'ANYSTRING' THEN  
...  
END-IF
```

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